REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 40-55, 58-70 are now pending in the application.

Claims 1, 6, 8, 12, 40, 58 and 67 have been amended herein. A courtesy copy showing the claim amendments in markup form is attached (as attachment A) to show the amendments made in this response compared to the current version of the claims.

Each of applicant's independent claims includes the feature of a terminal responding to or providing an answer in response to an interrogation request message, the responding terminal having it's own second identifier which is not registered in the server.

For example, applicant's claim 40 includes receiving, from a terminal having it's own second identifier which is not registered in the server, an answer including a second value indicative of an answer and a second identifier which corresponds to the communicating party identified by the first identifier, in response to the interrogation request.

Applicant's claim 40 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 40 has been amended as suggested by the Examiner. It is respectfully requested the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 8, 12, 40, 46, 49 and 58-70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over "Address Resolution Protocol" by Finn (hereinafter Finn) in view of Mori. Claims 2-3, 6, 11, 14-15, 41-45, 47-48 and 50-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over "Address Resolution Protocol" by Finn in view of Mori, and further in view of Burnett et al. (Burnett).

Finn discloses in Section 6.1.3 "The following items notwithstanding, an LE Client MUST NOT respond to any LE_ARP_REQUEST if it has not completed the Join procedure" (page 2, section 6.1.3 of ATM_Forum 94-0527).

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Finn discloses in Section 6.2.8 "An LE Server MUST forward any LE_ARP_REQUEST

for an unregistered LAN destination to all Clients that successfully joined as proxy agents (Proxy

flag in the LE_JOIN_REQUEST). The LE Server MAY also forward that LE_REQUEST to other

LE Clients, as well".

In contrast, for example, applicant's claim 40 includes the feature of "from a terminal

having it's own second identifier which is not registered in the server". Applicant's unregistered

terminal, in response to the interrogation request message, provides an answer including a second

identifier corresponding to the first identifier from one of the plurality of terminals having it's own

second identifier which is not registered in the server.

Finn Sections 6.1.3 and 6.2.8 teach away from the above feature of claim 40. Namely, each

of a proxy agent and an LE Client having it's own LAN destination which is not registered in the

LE Server cannot respond a LE_ARP_RESPONSE to any LE_ARP_REQUEST forwarded from

the LE Server.

An unregistered LE Client cannot respond unless it is registered by the "Join protocol". In

Finn discloses the "Join protocol" in table 1, offset 14, page 3 of ATM_Forum 94-0526.

Thus, the above two references neither disclose nor suggest at least the feature of the

independent claims as pointed out above. Therefore it is respectfully submitted claims 1, 6, 8, 12,

40, 58 and 67 are not obvious over the Finn, Mori and Burnett references and the rejection should

be withdrawn.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which

action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this

application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to

telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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1.(thrice amended): An address management method in a communication system

equipped with a plurality of terminals, and a server for registering a corresponding relationship

between a first address and a second address of each terminal, the method comprising the steps of:

sending, to the server by an originating terminal, an address interrogation request which

includes a first value indicative of a request and a first address;

transferring, to a plurality of terminals by the server, the address interrogation request

which includes the first value and first address;

receiving, by each terminal the address interrogation request transferred from the server;

determining by each terminal whether the first address included in the address

interrogation request received from the server agrees with a terminal's own first address;

notifying, by each terminal, in response to the address interrogation request, the server of

an answer which includes a terminal's own second address which is not registered in the server and

a second value indicative of an answer when agreement is achieved;

receiving, from one of the plurality of terminals by the server, the answer which includes

the second value and the second address which corresponds to the first address; and

registering, in the server, a corresponding relationship between the first address and the

second address which is included in the answer.

6.(thrice amended):   An address management method in a communication system equipped with a plurality of terminals, and a server for registering a corresponding relationship between a first address and a second address of each terminal, the method comprising the steps of:

sending, to the server by an originating terminal, an address interrogation request which includes a first value indicative of a request and a first address;

transferring, to a plurality of terminals by the server, the address interrogation request which includes the first value and first address;

receiving, by each terminal, the address interrogation request transferred from the server;

determining by each terminal whether the first address included in the address interrogation request received from the server agrees with a terminal's own first address;

notifying, by the terminal, in response to the address interrogation request, the server of an answer which includes a terminal's own second address which is not registered in the server and a second value indicative of an answer when agreement is achieved;

receiving, from one of the plurality of terminals by the server, the answer which includes the second value and the second address which corresponds to the first address;

deleting a corresponding relationship, referred to least recently, between a first address and a second address if the server cannot accommodate a corresponding relationship between the

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first address and second address included in the answer received from a prescribed terminal; and

registering, in a memory by the server, a corresponding relationship between the first

address and the second address which is included in the answer.

8.(thrice amended): A communication system equipped with a plurality of terminals, and a

server for registering a corresponding relationship between a first address and second address of

each terminal, wherein

each of the terminals comprises:

means for sending, to the server, an address interrogation request which includes a first

value indicative of a request and a first address; and

means for answering the server with an answer including its own second address which is

not registered in the server and a second value indicative of an answer when a first address,

included in an address interrogation request which has been received from the server, agrees with

its own first address; and

the server comprises:

means for transferring the address interrogation request which includes the first value and

the first address to a plurality of terminals; and

registration means for registering, in the server, a corresponding relationship between the

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first address and the second address which is included in the answer which has been received from one of the plurality of terminals in response to the address interrogation request which has been transferred from the server.

12.(thrice amended): A server in a communication system equipped with a plurality of terminals, the server comprising:

interrogation means for receiving, from an originating terminal, an address interrogation request including a first value indicative of a request and a first address, and for transferring the address interrogation request to a plurality of terminals;

means for receiving, from one of the plurality of terminals having it's own second address which is not registered in the server, an answer including a second value indicative of an answer and a second address which corresponds to the first address, from one of the plurality of terminals in response to the address interrogation request which has been transferred from the server; and

registration means for registering, in a memory, a corresponding relationship between the first address and the second address which is included in the answer.

40.(thrice amended): In a network system having a server, the method of registering in the server a corresponding relationship between a first identifier and a second identifier for a

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communicating party, comprising the steps of:

receiving an interrogation request including a first value indicative of a request and

a first identifier;

determining a corresponding second identifier is not registered in the server;

transferring the interrogation request to a plurality of terminals which can ~~may~~

accommodate the communicating party;

receiving, from a terminal having it's own second identifier which is not registered

in the server, an answer including a second value indicative of an answer and a second identifier

which corresponds to the communicating party identified by the first identifier, in response to the

interrogation request; and

registering a corresponding relationship between the first identifier and the second

identifier which is included in the answer.

58.(once amended): In a network system including communicating parties accommodated

by terminals, a method of registering a corresponding relationship between a first identifier and a

second identifier for a communicating party, comprising the steps of:

when a communication request is issued, determining, in a terminal

accommodating an originating party, whether a second identifier for another communicating party

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is registered;

sending to a server an interrogation request including a first value indicative of a request and a first identifier of the other communicating party when the second identifier is not registered in the terminal;

transferring, by the server, the interrogation request to a plurality of terminals which ~~may~~ can accommodate the other communicating party when the second identifier corresponding to the first identifier is not registered in the server;

receiving, at the server, an answer including a second value indicative of an answer and the second identifier which corresponds to the other communicating party identified by the first identifier in response to the interrogation request, said answer from a terminal having it's own second identifier which is not registered in the server;

sending the answer to the terminal accommodating the originating party; and

registering, in the terminal accommodating the originating party, a corresponding relationship between the first identifier and the second identifier which is included in the answer.

67.(once amended): A network identifier resolution system equipped with a plurality of terminals, a switch or exchange which accommodates each terminal of a plurality of terminals and a server, wherein

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each terminal of the plurality of terminals comprising:

a processor that receives a communication request message, determines a first

identifier from the communication request message, checks a local storage area for a

corresponding second identifier, and when a second identifier is not registered, creates an

interrogation request message which includes a first value indicative of a request and the first

identifier; and

a network interface unit that sends to the server the interrogation request message

and receives answers and interrogation request messages from the server;

the server comprising:

a processor that receives the interrogation request message, checks a storage area

for a corresponding second identifier, and when a second identifier is not registered, forwards the

interrogation request;

network interface unit for transferring the interrogation request message including

the first value indicative of the request and the first identifier to a plurality of terminals, and

receiving, in response to the interrogation request message, an answer including a second

identifier corresponding to the first identifier from one of the plurality of terminals having it's own

second identifier which is not registered in the server; and

the storage area for registering a corresponding relationship between the first

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identifier and the second identifier which has been included in the answer.